

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter related therein, amend Claims 7 to 16, and add new Claims 17 and 18, as follows:

Claims 1 to 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

~~forming a molded member by~~ compression molding of a plastic fluoroplastic powder and fiber material to form a cylindrical molded member such that the fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a direction of compressing; and

sintering ~~said~~ the cylindrical molded member; and

cutting an outer peripheral surface of the sintered cylindrical molded member by relatively rotating the sintered cylindrical molded member wherein said fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus including a vibration member, a contact member which is brought into frictional contact with the vibration member and relatively moved by vibrations produced in the vibration member, ~~the and said~~ friction member being formed on one of respective friction portions of ~~the said~~ vibration member and ~~the~~ contact member, the method comprising the steps of:

~~forming a molded member by compression molding of a plastic fluoroplastic~~
powder and fiber material to form a cylindrical molded member such that the fiber material is
aligned substantially perpendicular to a direction of compressing; and
~~sintering said the cylindrical molded member; and~~
~~cutting an outer peripheral surface of the sintered cylindrical molded member~~
~~by relatively rotating the sintered cylindrical molded member wherein said fiber material is~~
~~aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the said
fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of the
said friction member.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the
said fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of
the said friction member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the
said fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the said
fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm .

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

~~forming a sheet by cutting the a sintered ~~molded~~ member to in the form of a~~
sheet; and

~~pressing the forming~~ said sheet into a predetermined shape using by a press
form.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

~~forming a sheet by cutting the a sintered member to in the form of a sheet; and~~
~~pressing the forming~~ said sheet into a predetermined shape using by a press

form.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the
~~said~~ sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the
~~said~~ sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the plastic powder is a
fluoroplastic powder.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the plastic powder is a fluoroplastic powder.